

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 5/5/10 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowance

Claims 28-38 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 28, the prior art fails to teach a sonotrode body comprising a head portion having a planar working surface, a front surface perpendicular to the working surface, and the front surface including a reinforcement exhibiting a continuously changing curve protruding over the entire width of the front surface and having a maximal extension of 3-25 mm over the front surface.

Elmore (US 30177952) discloses an ultrasonic welding horn including a triangular geometry reinforcement on the front surface, while Tamamoto (JP 10-202752-A) teaches an ultrasonic welding horn with a rectangular reinforcement over the front surface. However, neither Elmore nor Tamamoto teaches a reinforcement exhibiting a continuously changing curve or having a maximal extension of 3-25 mm over the front surface. Neuwirth (US 5096532) also discloses various embodiments of ultrasonic horn comprising reinforcement, but fails to disclose a continuously changing curve protruding

over the entire width of the front surface or having a maximal extension of 3-25 mm over the front surface. Moreover, no motivation was found for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reinforcement geometry in prior art sonotrode apparatuses so as to obtain the claimed structural limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEVANG PATEL whose telephone number is (571)270-3636. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, EST..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Ward can be reached on 571-272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devang Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/Jessica L. Ward/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

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